

The Fashionette gained a reputation as an exclusive women's clothing store as the trio's taste translated into happy customers. Drews recalls the two sisters getting all dressed up in the latest styles to go to market day, where they ordered merchandise for upcoming seasons.

"It was great to watch them," he says. "They bought the very best of everything."

Phyllis Manger, who has shopped at the store since 1934, came here from Wisconsin and attended Camas High School for a spell. She eventually moved back home, graduated from high school and then returned to Camas with her beautician's credentials.

In fact, her first job was in the store's salon.

"It was great because we had first choice of everything coming in," she says. "I was the best dressed at that time than I was in many years. People really entertained one another and we dressed properly."

What was so special about the store was that it had everything — gloves, hats, coats — and they altered everything to fit.

Anna and Rose also knew their customers so well, if they saw something and thought it would be perfect for a client, they'd snatch it up, bring it back and show it to the person they had in mind. Ten to one, it was just what she was looking for.

Manger remembers when Anna scolded a new sales girl for selling an outfit she had picked out just for her.

And the service couldn't be beat. "Excellent service — grade A, number one," she says. "If they didn't have it, they'd try to get it."

Eunice Johnson, a 1930 graduate of Camas High School, remembers shopping at The Fashionette when it was still in the Liberty Theater Building.

"If you found something you really liked, they made it fit," she says of Rose and Anna. "In those days, you were always going to a dance or a party and you dressed up. Whatever you wanted, they could get it for you. And everything was one of a kind. You didn't meet yourself going down the street."

Winnie Shinn, who's shopped at the store since 1936, said the business was so successful because it carried top of the line merchandise.

"It was always a high class store," she says.

Charlie, Rose and Anna could be seen walking to work together and back home in the evening, lunch baskets in tow.

At work, they pored over fashion magazines like Women's Wear Daily. The sisters were often seen in the store's

balcony altering dresses with their yardsticks, chalk and a bucket of pins.

Glenda Farrell Schuh, Rose's granddaughter and one of the store's current owners, remembers her grandmother seeing a customer enter the door and calling down to her to come up and see what just arrived from New York. Well, what just came in from New York was really what she had just created.

The store kept expanding. A year after coming back to the original location, shoes were added to the store's ever-growing selection of merchandise, which now included fine china, cut crystal and linens. And working the shoe department was Charlie's favorite duty — maybe all those years of working barefoot in the mill got to him. Around the same time, Glenn joined the business after working at First National Bank in Portland.

"Glenn was a very intelligent and articulate person," says the brother of his high school sweetheart, Helen, who he married two years earlier in 1934.

Mikesell, who like the three merchants also walked to her job at the mill, remembers Charlie sweeping the sidewalk.

"One day I asked him, 'Why don't you have your son do that?' and he leaned on the broom handle and said, 'They have college degrees,'" she recalls, laughing.

Alice Blair remembers hearing her husband, Tom, who owned Columbia Litho with George Guard, talk about Charlie. The business was right across from The Fashionette and every morning when Tom and George arrived at work, they'd see Charlie out front sweeping the sidewalk. No matter what time it was, Charlie always told them they were late for work. So, one day, the two arrived at 5:30 a.m. and there was Charlie, broom in hand. No matter how hard they tried, Charlie was just always the first one there.

Joyce Wainington, who's shopped at the store since 1938, used to work at the drugstore near by. On her lunch hours, she'd come in and visit with the women behind the counter.

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